

### Get used to “different”!

Over the last year, I have become aware of a wonderful new series on the life of Jesus called “The Chosen”. Season 1 is complete with eight episodes. Apparently, the plan is for eight seasons! In one of the episodes, Jesus calls Matthew, the hated tax collector, to follow him. Peter questions Jesus on the choice of Matthew as a follower. Peter tells Jesus “*he is different*”. The response from Jesus: “Get used to different”!

I was thinking about that interesting phrase as I was preparing this article for the OLAM newsletter. Most certainly we have had to get used to many different things becoming commonplace throughout this pandemic! We have gotten very accustomed to “different”. Doing things in a different way is not necessarily bad. Sometimes, it enables us to look outside the box, so to speak! At times, it challenges us to use other gifts and resources that we did not even know we had. “Different” can lead to a deeper awareness and discovery of what is possible!



Our Martha Associates continue to move forward and welcome the challenges of “different”! Like most other groups, we have become very used to the lingo of “virtual meetings” and “Zoom”; the necessity of emails and texts, and of course, the mainstay of Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone!! All wonderful forms of technology that has helped us to stay connected in these “different” times!

While not all our Martha associate groups have been able to gather, the **Martha Associate Committee** has been faithful to meet virtually and to continue with the work of the Martha associates as we move forward, together with the Sisters.

The committee is comprised of

- ◆ one Associate from each Associate group (two Associates from the West),
- ◆ the Martha associate director,
- ◆ representation from the Sisters of St. Martha.

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Our Leadership liaison, Sr. Florence Kennedy, attends the meetings as required. We are very blessed to have three Marthas as members of this committee at present: Sr. Claudette Gallant; Sr. Josephine MacLellan; and Sr. Catherine MacFarlane. Their collective wisdom and ideas help to guide us! We are currently exploring ideas for the Martha Associate Fall Retreat, as well as a very special project... which shall remain a secret at present!!!

Our Martha Associate committee has a wonderful energy about it; a great sense of shared purpose and excitement about where the future can lead us! I like to think of this committee as the “Board of Advisers” for Martha associates, a place where ideas are born, presented, discussed and re-worked before they are ever presented to the Congregation Leadership.



Martha Associates

The one thing that is not “different” is the deep commitment of our Martha associates to live the best lives we can and to share the charism of “Gospel Hospitality” in our everyday lives, with all whom we meet. We especially remember all the Sisters of St. Martha in our daily prayers, and we look forward to the time when we will be able to see you and visit with you in person once again! God Bless you all!

*~Julia Townsend, Martha Associate Director*